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INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
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SUBJECT: BAHRAIN: NEW WORLD BANK PRESIDENT

REF: STATE 73691

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¶1. (SBU) The Ambassador May 31 delivered reftel information concerning the nomination of Robert Zoellick to be World Bank president to Finance Minister Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa. Shaikh Ahmed said that Bahrain knew Zoellick well from the FTA negotiations and would be fully supportive of his nomination. He said he planned to write Zoellick to congratulate him on the nomination.

¶2. (SBU) Pol/Econ Chief also delivered the information to MFA Director for Bilateral Affairs Dr. Dhafer Al Umrani May 30. Al Umrani characterized Zoellick as a "great choice." In Al Umrani's view, the primary focus of the World Bank should be on poverty alleviation and sustainable development. He stated that Zoellick is someone who has demonstrated interest in and concern about these issues.

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